

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2 and 5 through 20 are pending in this application. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 9, 10, 15, 19 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the only remaining issue pivots about the patentability of claims 1, 2, 5 through 8, 11 through 14, and 16 through 18.

Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled and claims 1, 2, 12, 15, 16 and 18 through 20 have been amended. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Indeed, adequate descriptive support for the present Amendment should be apparent throughout originally filed disclosure, noting that the limitations from claims 2, 3 and 4, claim 4 being indicated to contain allowable subject matter, have been incorporated into claim 1, the limitations of claim 19, indicated allowable, have been incorporated into claim 12 and claim 12 placed in independent form. Claim 15 has also been placed in independent form. The dependency of claims 16 and 18 through 20 has been appropriately changed. Applicant submits that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

**Claims 1, 2 and 14, presumably intending claims 1, 2, 3, 5 through 8, 11 through 14 and 16 through 18, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Gilliland et al.**

This rejection is traversed. Indeed, this rejection has been rendered moot by incorporating limitations from claim 4, indicated allowable, into claim 1, incorporating the limitations from claim 19, indicated allowable, into claim 12 and placing claim 12 into independent form.

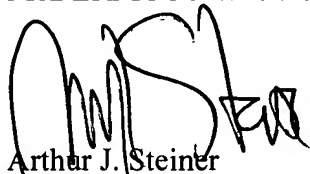
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 3, 5 through 8, 11 through 14, 16 through 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Gilliland is solicited.

Applicant again acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 9, 10, 15, 19, 20 contain allowable subject matter. As indicated above, the limitations of claim 4, indicated allowable, have been incorporated into claim 1, the limitations of claim 19, indicate allowable, have been incorporated into claim 12 and claim 12 has been placed in independent form, and claim 15 has been placed in independent form. All remaining claims depend from either independent claim 1, independent claim 12, or independent claim 15. Accordingly, it should be apparent that the imposed rejection has been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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